

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1        1. (Currently amended) An anchor assembly for supporting a post  
2        an axially-elongate tubular post having an arcuate exterior profile and having at least  
3        a hollow lower end bounded by an interior surface, the assembly including:  
4              a hollow tubular anchor body extending along an axis and having a hollow  
5        interior with an arcuate interior cross-sectional area, the hollow interior of the anchor  
6        body having two open ends and being configured to receive an axially-elongate  
7        tubular ~~the post~~ having an arcuate exterior profile and having at least a hollow lower  
8        end bounded by an interior surface ~~within the hollow interior of the anchor body from~~  
9        one open end; and  
10          a base plate connected to and closing ~~the one~~ end of the anchor body  
11        opposite to the end that receives the post, the base plate having an arcuate portion  
12        shaped congruently to the arcuate cross-sectional area of the interior of the anchor  
13        body and mated into the interior cross-sectional area of the anchor body, the base  
14        plate having an upstanding arcuate conical portion located within the interior of the  
15        anchor body, the conical portion having a cross-sectional area that is  
16        complementary to the hollow lower end of the post and having a greatest radial  
17        dimension at a base of the conical portion, the anchor body and the conical portion  
18        bounding an annular area that extends about the conical portion for receiving the  
19        hollow lower end of the post, the greatest radial dimension of the conical portion  
20        being greater than a complementary dimension of the interior surface of the post to  
21        cause the interior surface of the post to slide over the conical portion and the conical

22 portion to frictionally engage the post to prevent lateral movement of the post  
23 relative to the base plate.

1           2. (Original) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the  
2 anchor body has a circular interior cross-sectional area to receive the post which has  
3 a circular exterior profile, the arcuate portion of the base plate is circular to mate with  
4 the circular cross-section anchor body, and the conical portion of the base plate is a  
5 circular conic.

1           3. (Currently amended) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1,  
2 wherein the conical portion of the base plate is a truncated conic, and the conical  
portion is spaced radially inward from the anchor body at the greatest radial  
dimension of the conical portion such that the annular area that extends about the  
conical portion extends to the greatest radial dimension of the conical portion.

1           4. (Original) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the  
2 conical portion of the base plate has an axially extending opening to receive a  
3 retaining member.

1           5. (Original) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the  
2 base plate has an arcuate flange that extends in an outward radial direction from the  
3 arcuate portion of the base plate.

1           6. (Original) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the  
2 greatest radial dimension of the conical portion of the base plate is sufficiently large

3 to cause frictional engagement with the post at a location of the post that is spaced  
4 from the arcuate portion of the base plate.

1           7. (Currently amended)     A base plate insert for use with an  
2 axially-elongate tubular anchor body within an anchor assembly for supporting an  
3 axially-elongate tubular post, the anchor body having a hollow interior with an  
4 arcuate interior cross-sectional area and the hollow interior having two open ends  
5 and being configured to receive the tubular post from one open end, and the tubular  
6 post having an arcuate exterior profile and having at least a hollow lower end  
7 bounded by an interior surface, the base plate for connection to and closing of the  
8 one end of the anchor body opposite to the end that receives the post, the base  
9 plate including:

10           an arcuate portion shaped congruently to the arcuate cross-sectional area of  
11 the anchor body for mating into the cross-sectional area of the interior of the anchor  
12 body; and

13           an upstanding arcuate conical portion for location within the interior of the  
14 anchor body, the conical portion being rigid and non-deflecting, and having a  
15 cross-sectional area that is complementary to the hollow lower end of the post and  
16 having a greatest radial dimension at a base of the conical portion, tapering of the  
17 conical portion providing an annular area that extends about the conical portion for  
18 receipt of the hollow lower end of the tube, the greatest radial dimension of the  
19 conical portion being greater than a complementary dimension of the interior surface  
20 of the post for causing to cause the interior surface of the post to slide over the  
21 conical portion and the conical portion to frictionally engage the post to prevent  
22 lateral movement of the post relative to the base plate.

1           8. (Original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7, wherein the  
2 arcuate portion of the base plate is circular to mate with a circular cross-section  
3 anchor body, and the conical portion of the base plate is a circular conic.

1           9. (Original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 9, wherein the  
2 conical portion of the base plate is a truncated conic.

1           10. (Original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7, wherein the  
2 conical portion of the base plate has an axially extending opening to receive a  
3 retaining member.

1           11. (Original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7, wherein the  
2 base plate has an arcuate flange that extends in an outward radial direction from the  
3 arcuate portion of the base plate.

1           12. (Original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7, wherein the  
2 greatest radial dimension of the conical portion of the base plate is sufficiently large  
3 to cause frictional engagement with the post at a location of the post that is spaced  
4 from the arcuate portion of the base plate.

1           13. (Previously presented) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7,  
2 wherein the conical portion is circumferentially continuous.

1           14. (Previously presented) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7,  
2       wherein a greatest radial dimension of the arcuate portion is greater than a greatest  
3       radial dimension of the conical portion.

1           15. (Currently amended) An anchor assembly for supporting a post  
2       an axially-elongate tubular post having an arcuate exterior profile and having at least  
3       a hollow lower end bounded by an interior surface, the assembly including:  
4           surface means, extending along an axis and ~~having an~~ providing a hollow  
5       arcuate interior cross-sectional area, for receiving ~~an axially-elongate tubular~~ ~~the~~  
6       post, ~~the hollow interior of the surface means~~ having two open ends with the post  
7       extending into the interior of the surface means from one open end ~~having an~~  
8       arcuate exterior profile and having at least a hollow lower end bounded by an interior  
9       surface; and

10          a base plate located at and closing ~~one~~ the end of the surface means  
11       opposite to the end that receives the post, the base plate having an arcuate portion  
12       shaped congruently to the arcuate cross-sectional area of the interior of the surface  
13       means and mated into the cross-sectional area of the surface means, the base plate  
14       having an upstanding arcuate conical portion located within the interior of the anchor  
15       body, the conical portion having a cross-sectional area that is complementary to the  
16       hollow lower end of the post and having a greatest radial dimension at a base of the  
17       conical portion, the anchor body and the surface means bounding an annular area  
18       that extends about the conical portion for receiving the hollow lower end of the post,  
19       the greatest radial dimension of the conical portion being greater than a  
20       complementary dimension of the interior surface of the post to cause the interior  
21       surface of the post to slide over the conical portion and the conical portion to

22 frictionally engage the post to prevent lateral movement of the post relative to the  
23 base plate.

1           16. (Previously presented) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim  
2       15, wherein the surface means has a circular interior cross-sectional area to receive  
3       the post which has a circular exterior profile, the arcuate portion of the base plate is  
4       circular to mate with the circular cross-section of the surface means, and the conical  
5       portion of the base plate is a circular conic.

1           17. (Previously presented) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim  
2       15, wherein the conical portion of the base plate is a truncated conic.

1           18. (Previously presented) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim  
2       15, wherein the conical portion of the base plate has an axially extending opening to  
3       receive a retaining member.

1           19. (Previously presented) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim  
2       15, wherein the base plate has an arcuate flange that extends in an outward radial  
3       direction from the arcuate portion of the base plate.

1           20. (Previously presented) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim  
2       15, wherein the greatest radial dimension of the conical portion of the base plate is  
3       sufficiently large to cause frictional engagement with the post at a location of the  
4       post that is spaced from the arcuate portion of the base plate.